



Mental Health Evaluations (MHE)

MHE Standards



- **DoD Directive 6490.1**
Mental Health Evaluations of Members of the Armed Forces (1 Oct 97)
- **DoD Instruction 6490.4**
Requirements for Mental Health Evaluations of Members of the Armed Forces (28 Aug 97)
- www.dtic.mil/whs/directives

MHEs Not Covered



- Self-referrals
- Family Advocacy Program
- Drug / alcohol rehab programs
- Responsibility and competency inquiries (Rule 706 of the Manual for Courts-Martial)
- Diagnostic referral by non-mental healthcare providers
 - SM consents
- Required for service regulation without discretionary authority by the SM's Commander

Types of MHEs



- Non-emergency (**routine**)
- **Emergency**
 - Threatening words or actions that suggest imminent violent behavior
 - To delay a MHE to complete administrative requirements would further endanger SM or victims

Authority to Perform MHE



- Psychiatrists, Clinical Psychologists, or Social Workers certified and designated on orders
- Commander may refer SM to physician or to senior privileged non-MD provider pending evaluation by a privileged doctoral-level Medical Health Care Professional

Voluntary vs. Involuntary Hospitalization



- **Voluntary admission:**
 - Provider determines what is clinically indicated
 - SM has capacity to make informed decision **and** voluntarily consents
- **Involuntary admission:**
 - Provider makes judgment that level of care cannot be less restrictive

Service Member Rights



- Have at least two days (except in emergencies) to consult with an IG, attorney, chaplain, or other
- Seek second opinion (own expense)
- No restrictions on communication with Member of Congress, IG, or others
- Reasons for not complying with above rights